



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/624,561	07/23/2003	Jong-Hoon Lee	1293.1766	6631
21171	7590	08/24/2006	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			HALEY, JOSEPH R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2627	

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/624,561	LEE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Joseph Haley	2627	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 May 2006.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. (US 6741534) in view of Okumura (US 5444687).

In regard to claims 1 and 6, Takahashi teaches an apparatus to determine an area of an optical disc, comprising: a pickup that reads/records a signal from/to the optical disc (fig. 8 element 203); a spindle motor that revolves the optical disc (202); and a controller that counts a number of wobble syncs for one rotation of the optical disc at a current position of the pickup, compares the number of counted wobble syncs with a reference number of wobble syncs, and determines the current position of the pickup based on a comparison result, when wobble sync information read by the pickup indicates that the pickup is present in an area of the optical disk that is greater than or equal to 95 minutes (column 15 lines 28-33. In regard to the limitation "greater than or equal to 95 minutes", the apparatus of Takahashi would inherently do this everywhere on the disc). However, Takahashi et al. does not teach this with ATIP information.

Okumura teaches ATIP information being a modulated on recorded wobble signal (column 9 lines 44-50).

The two are analogous art because they both deal with the same field of invention of recording onto an optical disc.

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the apparatus of Takahashi et al. with the ATIP information of Okumura. The rationale is as follows: At the time of invention it would have been obvious to provide the apparatus of Takahashi et al. with the ATIP information of Okumura because of the reliability of ATIP information.

In regard to claims 2, 7, and 11 Takahashi et al. teaches all the limitation of claim 11 except wherein one block corresponds to 2 Kbytes.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have one block correspond to 2 Kbytes .The motivation would have been: optimization/experimentation in the course of routine engineering. Moreover, absent a showing of criticality, i.e., unobvious or unexpected results, the relationships set forth in claim 11 is considered to be within the level of ordinary skill in the art.

Additionally, the law is replete with cases in which the mere difference between the claimed invention and the prior art is some range, variable or other dimensional limitation within the claims, patentability cannot be found.

It furthermore has been held in such a situation, the applicant must show that the particular range is critical, generally by showing that the claimed range achieves unexpected results relative to the prior art range(s); see *In re Woodruff*, 919 F.2d 1575, 1578, 16 USPQ2d 1934, 1936 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

Moreover, the instant disclosure does not set forth evidence ascribing unexpected results due to the claimed dimensions; see *Gardner v. TEC Systems, Inc.*, 725 F.2d 1338 (Fed. Cir. 1984), which held that the dimensional limitations failed to point out a feature which performed and operated any differently from the prior art.

In regard to claim 3, Takahashi et al. teaches all the elements of claim 3 (see column 15 lines 28-33) except the use of ATIP information.

Okumura teaches ATIP information being a modulated on recorded wobble signal (column 9 lines 44-50).

In regard to claims 4, 5, 8, 9, 12 and 13 Takahashi et al. teaches the location determination unit determines that the pickup is present in a lead-in area when the number of counted ATIP syncs is less than the reference number of ATIP syncs and the location determination unit determines that the pickup is present in an area other than a lead-in area when the number of counted ATIP syncs is greater than the reference number of ATIP syncs (since the lead-in area is at the smallest radius of the disc and all other areas are at greater radii, the number of syncs would be smaller in the lead-in area than all other areas. Therefore if the number of syncs in the first data area is considered the reference value, this limitation is met).

In regard to claims 10 and 18, see claims 1 and 6 rejections above.

Claims 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi et al. in view of Official Notice.

In regard to claims 14 and 15, Takahashi et al. teaches all the elements of these claims except a computer readable medium having a computer executable instructions stored thereon.

The examiner takes Official Notice the use of computer programs on a medium is well known in the art.

At the time of invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the apparatus of Takahashi et al. with a computer program. The rationale is as follows: At the time of invention it would have been obvious to provide the apparatus of Takahashi et al. with a computer program because computer readable media are reproducible, small and easy to manufacture.

In regard to claims 16 and 17, see claims 4, 5, 8, 9, 12 and 13 rejections above.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 5/30/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In regard to the argument on page 8 that Takahashi does not teach ATIP as disclosed in the independent claims, the examiner maintains this rejection because another reference was brought in to disclose that ATIP is a modulated wobble signal. Takahashi discloses using a wobble signal to determine the area of a disc, therefore the rejection is maintained.

On page 8, applicant argues that it would not be inherent that the apparatus of Takahashi would inherently indicate that the pickup is in an area of the optical disk that is equal to or greater than 95 minutes. However, the examiner maintains this rejection because Takahashi teaches determining the position of the pickup by developing a

count of the wobble signal. This operation is the same whether the pickup is at 1 minute or at 95 minutes; therefore the rejection is maintained.

Conclusion

3. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph Haley whose telephone number is 571-272-0574. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Korzuch can be reached on 571-272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jrh



WILLIAM KORZUCH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600